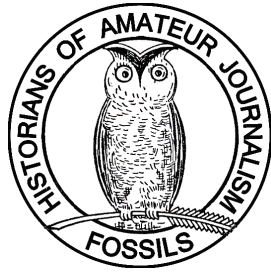


The



Fossil

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Letterpress Depot, Englewood Colorado

by David M. Tribby

IN 1915, THE Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railways Company built a Mission style train depot in Englewood, Colorado. After train operations ceased in 1955 the depot fell into disuse and was slated for demolition in 1993. After a group of preservationists stepped forward, the building was moved and underwent a partial restoration. It was designated a State Historical Building in November 1994, but languished as the city never created a plan for its use.

In the fall of 2011, the City of Englewood received two inquiries about purchasing the building for commercial development. At the March 2012 city council meeting, residents spoke for two hours in favor of preserving the depot and using it as a museum. In November the council published a request for proposals to purchase the site with emphasis on historic preservation.

Among several competing proposals, one from The Fossils' Tom Parson and his wife Patti envisioned a living museum of letterpress printing: "a working vintage letterpress printshop, with space for exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, events and meetings, as well as typographic research and printing projects – to be a resource available to the community." Among the planned exhibits:

- An extensive collection of letterpress printing equipment and type, including over a dozen presses, approximately 2500 fonts of metal type, hundreds of styles of wood type, thousands of antique printer's cuts, ornaments, and borders.
- An extensive library of typography, printing, design, and art, including dozens of rare type specimen books, manuals, and research materials.
- A major archive of amateur journals, dating back to 1900, including the hobby printing collection of Elaine Peck and members of the Columbine Amateur Press Club who were active in Colorado during the 1960s.
- A collection of poetry books and literary magazines of approximately 10,000 volumes, with focus on American poetry and small press publications.



The historic train depot in Englewood, Colorado, will soon house letterpress and amateur journalism exhibits.

The city council narrowed the choices to two contenders: the Parsons' proposal and one featuring model railroads. Both groups submitted detailed proposals, and in May an evaluation committee unanimously recommended the letterpress plan. The committee was particularly impressed with the financial plan and the potential to draw visitors from outside the area. At its June meeting the city council delayed its decision on the depot, but finally gave approval on July 1. Following a second vote in August, the Parsons gained title to the property.

Turning a long-neglected building into a working museum will require lots of work: construction, addition of water/sewer/gas/electrical hookups, historic restoration, and moving of printing equipment and library collections are only a few of the challenges.

Their first celebratory event was to host the Rocky Mountain Letterpress Society (aka The Wrong Fonts) on September 18 to "see the current condition of the building and consider our plans for the future." Ten days later they held a Neighborhood Welcome event that attracted more than 85 people.

UW Continues Work on AJ Collection

by Barry Schrader

THE LIBRARY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM collection at the University of Wisconsin in Madison is alive and well.

Checking recently with Susan Stravinski who has charge of the AJ materials in the Department of Special Collections, she reports that several graduate students working in her department are devoting part of their time to sorting and inventorying materials. "We have been focusing on the journals themselves, getting them inventoried, foldered and filed by title," she explained. The other items, including numerous bundles from the amateur press groups, are sorted into general categories, then set aside for further processing as time allows.

Each spring I visit the UW library when in town for a checkup at the UW Cancer Center, and get to see firsthand the progress being made. I always take time to peruse some of the early issues from the late 1800s in the Edwin Hadley Smith collection, amazed at the quality of writing and printing accomplished by those early hobbyists. I also stop downstairs to visit the Silver Buckle Press, which gives UW students hands-on experience in typesetting, graphic design, and letterpress printing.

Ms. Stravinski would welcome any additional funding for the interns so more can be accomplished in cataloging the thousands of pieces of amateur materials. She appreciates each AJ organization sending the monthly bundles.

About 128 boxes of various sizes remain unsorted. Here is what they have sorted and organized to date:

About 75 linear feet of the Edwin Hadley Smith bound volumes of journals and 9 scrapbooks by E H S of banquet menus, letterheads, etc. The 19th Century volumes have an inventory created by Martin Horvat.

45 bound volumes of foreign journals.

18 bound volumes clippings collected by E H S.

Bound volumes of *The National Amateur*, 1893-1930.

About 90 record storage cartons of journals, some Keffer correspondence, and other miscellaneous materials.

3 shelves of books (many with E H S label on spine).

Of these:

48 record storage cartons of bundles sorted by organization and date (AAPA, NAPA, APA, plus 3 BAPA).

5 record storage cartons of numbered 6x9 envelopes; inventory created.

12 record storage cartons of journals foldered by title, 1940s-1970s; inventory created.

15 record storage cartons of individual journals foldered by title, with an inventory spreadsheet. The inventory includes journal title, printer/editor name, state, city, date, issue number, press, organization(s). The spreadsheet is searchable and able to be resorted.

These boxes have also yielded, so far, 4 record storage cartons of Keffer correspondence and 5 record storage cartons of miscellaneous items related to AJ, printing, etc.

AAPA Skips Election

IN JULY, THE American Amateur Press Association board of directors declared all candidates who filed for office were automatically elected. A series of streamlining amendments passed two years ago gave the board the option to declare candidates elected when there is no competition for an office. With exactly one candidate for each office, the entire 2013 election was cancelled. Also as part of the streamlining, the new board is made up of the five elected officers rather than three separately-elected directors.

The slate of officers includes three new to their positions: President Peter Schaub, Vice President Brian Nelson, and Mailer Frederick Moe; incumbent Official Editor Clarence Wolfshohl and Secretary-Treasurer Ivan Snyder continue in their offices. AAPA officers serve two-year terms starting October 1, except for the Mailer, whose term starts January 1.

Before the ballot was filled, there was serious discussion of disbanding the association. Frustrated at the lack of members willing to serve as officers, the failure to find a convention chairman, and a membership total dwindling to fewer than 200, several long-time stalwarts suggested it would be better to have an orderly shutdown rather than continue haphazardly. The death in May of Leland Hawes, "Mr. AAPA," seemed to bring concerns to a head. In a June publication named —30— Dean Rea, a member since 1942, suggested it was time for AAPA "to clean up the house, thank the guests and bow out gracefully." Blaming "flimsie" bundles on an aging membership and the high costs associated with publishing on paper, he wondered whether "members would be willing to pay \$25 dues if bundles are no longer stuffed." Although he enjoyed his membership, Dean didn't want to see AAPA "die slowly of its own accord. I would prefer [we end] in a celebratory fashion."

However, there were still signs of life in the organization. That June bundle contained 14 items, the largest in several months, and a full slate of candidates stepped forward before the July 5 filing deadline.

An anonymous publication in the August bundle challenged Dean's arguments. While noting the AAPA could not continue "in a 1960s era mold," the author suggested "there are plenty of us looking for activities and clubs that ... allow us to interact with others." The essay concluded, "I see members who like the AAPA and want to keep playing. ... I think everybody can continue to have fun."

In the September *American Amateur Journalist*, outgoing president Susan Petrone noted the late spring gloom. "And then the cavalry rode in. ... we have a damn good, enthusiastic slate of officers who have some exciting ideas on rejuvenating AAPA and the skill set to implement those ideas." In that same issue, incoming VP Brian Nelson highlighted plans for a more interactive website, including forums open to all AAPA members.

What do we do?

by Gary Bossler

EACH AJAY ORGANIZATION is headed in a slightly different direction. Being a member of The Fossils, AAPA and NAPA, I have a concern for all of them. AAPA seems headed toward the Internet and a kind of blogging style, while NAPA wants to stick to traditional methods.

It has been said that the bundle is the glue that holds an organization together. But we're finding it increasingly more expensive to send out our bundles.

NAPA seems to have the largest bank account but they can't continue deficit spending forever. They have already increased dues considerably. But even with that large increase, the cost of mailing bundles and printing and mailing the official organ exceeds the normal income. I joined NAPA in 1972 when there were over 400 members. This was not a problem then. They were even considering limiting membership to 500.

A year or two later I joined AAPA and then at some point I joined UAPA. I did not remain long in UAPA. Although there were a number of papers each month in their bundle, it seemed to me 80% were printed by the same person. I've not heard anything about UAPA lately and do not know if they still exist.

After Guy Miller's death on September 15, 2012, I was asked by Barry Schrader and Jack Swenson, remaining Trustees of The Fossils, to fill the remainder of Guy's term as a Trustee. I accepted and promptly suggested to Barry that since he and I were the newest Trustees that Jack Swenson should take over as President of The Fossils to replace Guy. Barry agreed and so Jack was appointed to fill the remainder of Guy's term as President. Then Barry resigned as Trustee for health reasons and Jack Swenson and I asked Dave Tribby to take his place. Dave agreed to do that last October. In the meantime, THE FOSSIL had been without an Official Editor since the resignation of Ken Faig, who had been doing a great job for eight years. I had been producing and mailing THE FOSSIL for Guy and Ken, and so I put out the first two issues of volume 109. Dave Tribby put out a 28 page issue of THE FOSSIL in June 2013, which was largely in memory of Leland Hawes, who passed away May 18, 2013.

So now in pretty close succession we have lost Mr. NAPA, Harold Segal, in 2009; Mr. Fossil, Guy Miller, in 2012; and Mr. AAPA, Leland Hawes, in 2013. History will tell us who stepped up to become the leaders. Or else it will tell us this was when we started fading away. That idea seems distasteful so I prefer not to think of that.

One thing is certain: Change is coming. Some changes we will like and others we will not. For example, I'm sitting in front of my new desktop computer that has Windows 8 as its operating system. This is completely different than what I am familiar with. Also I am using a trial version of Office 365. Microsoft's newest way of

marketing its software is to lease it to me for a year. Office Max will sell Office 365 for one year for \$99.99, but it does not include MS Publisher which is what I am using. And it is completely different from Adobe PageMaker which is what I was using.

I have an 8x12 C&P Oldstyle press in the basement with lots of type. I know how to use that but it is very slow. But, then again, this Windows 8 and Publisher 365 are painfully slow as I grope to find out how they work.

I have been rambling on about many different things. I don't consider myself a skilled writer. I like to put words down, but really enjoy making the published results look good on the paper. I wish I had the polish of a writer to put down my thoughts in a meaningful way.

My good friend Guy Miller had a way with words. He told me that any ajay organization would cease to exist when it was unable to get members to hold office. Does that ring a bell with anybody?

It is almost like pulling teeth to get someone to say they will run for office. I think AAPA, NAPA and The Fossils are all in that same boat. We all have an aging membership and too many members who feel that they have already done their time as an office holder.

Michael Wallace Waite

November 24, 1936 - January 1, 2013

FOSSIL MICHAEL WAITE died on January 1 at his home in Ypsilanti, Michigan, following an illness of about a year. Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Michael grew up in nearby Brighton. After graduating high school in 1956, he served four years in the U. S. Air Force. He worked for the Post Office during the 1960s, then started his own photography business in 1971. Michael earned an MFA degree in Photography and Art History from Eastern Michigan University in 1983. From 1985 until 2011 he was employed in human resources at SOS Community Services, a non-profit community crisis center.

By 1992, Michael's interest in science fiction led him to involvement with fanzines. He joined the Fantasy Amateur Press Association in 2000 and published 23 issues of *Trial and Air* for that group's mailings between February 2000 and May 2012. It was recognized as a well-produced and attractive magazine in which Michael used his photographic skills and ability to write elegantly on a wide range of topics. He also maintained private correspondence with a number of publishers and was considered a friend by many people who had never met him in person. Michael joined The Fossils in 2007.

A detailed obituary for Michael can be found in the February 2013 issue of the fanzine *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop*, published by Bill Wright, which is available on-line at efanzines.com/IRS/IRS-2013-02.pdf (Thanks to Fossil Robert Lichtman who contributed information for this article.)

NAPA Holds 138th Convention

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION held its 138th convention July 4 - 6 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Originally planned for Savannah, Georgia, the location had to be changed in late May. Attendance was 16, including the newest NAPA member, seven-month-old Elijah Brosey.

Official reports showed a healthy financial balance. One concern: the March and June issues of *The National Amateur* were not published. The convention voted to offer a special letterpress-only bundle for the second consecutive year. Members held a minute of silence to remember five members who died during the year.

A petition from George Hamilton and Barry Schrader requesting the dissolution of NAPA due to low membership and participation provoked the most discussion. President Marc Brosey strongly disputed the petition's premise, citing over 100 bundles mailed each month and a strong core of regular publishers. Jake Warner noted in *The Boxwooder* for August, "All members present seemed aghast at this proposal ... As long as members enjoy the association and enjoy the conventions there is no reason why they should kill it."

Officers elected at the convention: President Michelle Klosterman, Vice President Jim Hedges, Official Editor Alice Brosey, Recorder Marti Abell, and Executive Judge Arie Koelewyn. The incumbent Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Boys is halfway through his two-year term. Incumbent Judge David Warner also continues in office and becomes chairman of the Executive Judges. Jon McGrew was appointed Judge to complete Alice Brosey's term. The Washington, D. C., area was selected for the 2014 convention. Latest word is Annapolis, Maryland, is a leading contender.

The convention sparked immediate publishing activity. In addition to Warner's usual *Boxwooder* recap, Bill Boys edited four issues of *138 Journal* and Alice Brosey published a *Papermill Paper*, both papers dedicated to convention coverage in the July bundle. An article related to the convention also appeared in Mark Brosey's July *Manuscript Monthly*.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Tom Parson — June 15, 2013

THE FOSSILS BANK ACCOUNT as of May 31, 2013, totals a balance of \$6,550.75. This includes a deposit of various member dues in February of \$112.00 and a single check deduction in May of \$24.95 (to Dave Tribby for thefossils.org website). No other fees or transactions.

Payment for the January 2013 issue of THE FOSSIL (\$15 printing, \$22.70 postage, total of \$37.70) was covered by Gary Bossler with a dues payment for himself through February 2014 (\$30.00) plus a contribution of \$7.70. None of this was handled through our bank account.

Bank statements from our PNC Bank free business checking account are now being received monthly by Tom Parson. No additional officers are currently listed on the account, since the death of Guy Miller last year.

No system has yet been set up for billing members for dues, nor for reminding them when they are due, except for general mention in THE FOSSIL. Updates of the mailing list for THE FOSSIL are being handled by the Editor and the Secretary-Treasurer at the time of each issue.

One additional note of Fossils activity since my January report: we assisted in placement of amateur journals from the collection of the late Dr. A. Kenneth Yost of Portland, Oregon. A relative of Dr. Yost, Maggie Rogers, asked if we could take the collection and we found a home for them with Ivan Snyder, also an active AAPA and APA member in Portland.

The Fossil

THIS IS THE Official Publication of The Fossils, a non-profit organization of those interested in the history of amateur journalism. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join. Dues are \$15 annually, or \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to THE FOSSIL without privileges of membership is \$10. For further information, visit our website:

www.thefossils.org

Note: only three issues of THE FOSSIL were published in volume 109, and the printed copies of the last two issues were incorrectly numbered, although the whole numbers were correct. Whole number 355 should have been Vol. 109, No. 2 (not No. 1) and whole number 356 should have been Vol. 109, No. 3 (not No. 2). The on-line versions of those issues have been corrected.

For this issue, gathering of articles, editing, and page layout were completed by David Tribby in California; production and mailing were handled by Gary Bossler in Ohio.

Fossil Board: 2012 - 2014

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